

REMARKS

In response to the Official Action mailed February 11, 2003, Applicants amend their application and request continued examination. Upon entry of the foregoing Amendment, claims 2-4, 6-15, 17, and 19 are pending. Claim 15 is the only independent claim.

Claim 15 is amended to describe more specifically the disposition of the flow rate detector. The flow rate detector is described as bridging the measuring duct substantially parallel to the longitudinal direction of the fluid introduction port. This description is supported by the disclosure in the patent application in the paragraph bridging pages 49 and 50 with respect to Figure 12(a). As pointed out there, this arrangement divides swirling vortexes in the longitudinal direction of the fluid introduction port. The division weakens the vortexes so that a stable measurement of the fluid flow is achieved.

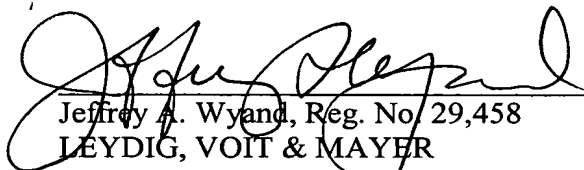
In the previous rejection, claims 2-4 and 6-16 were rejected as anticipated by the prior art disclosure of the patent application. This rejection is respectfully traversed and is clearly inapplicable to any claim now pending. None of the prior art structures described in the patent application includes a mounting member that bridges, i.e., extends entirely across, the measuring duct in the described longitudinal direction. The rejections in the previous Official Action of claims 17 and 18 as obvious are founded upon the assertion that the independent claims previously examined are anticipated by the prior art described in the patent application. Therefore, those rejections fail with the failure of the rejection of independent claim 15 submitted here.

Moreover, none of the publications cited in the prosecution of the patent application describes a structure in which the fluid flow rate detector comprises a substantially plate-shape mounting member extending along the fluid flow direction and bridging the measuring duct parallel to the longitudinal direction of the fluid introduction port. These prior art references do not suggest, as described at pages 49 and 50 of the present patent application, weakening of the swirling vortexes so that a stable fluid flow measurement can be obtained. Rather, conventionally, the claimed arrangement has not been used because of the pressure loss that accompanies the bridging of the measuring duct with a relatively large mounting member. Because of the concern regarding pressure drop, the prior art has not recognized the value of weakening the swirling vortexes, as in the invention, so that a stable flow measurement is obtained, regardless of the pressure drop.

In re Appln. of HAMADA et al.
Application No. 09/425,630

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims now pending are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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